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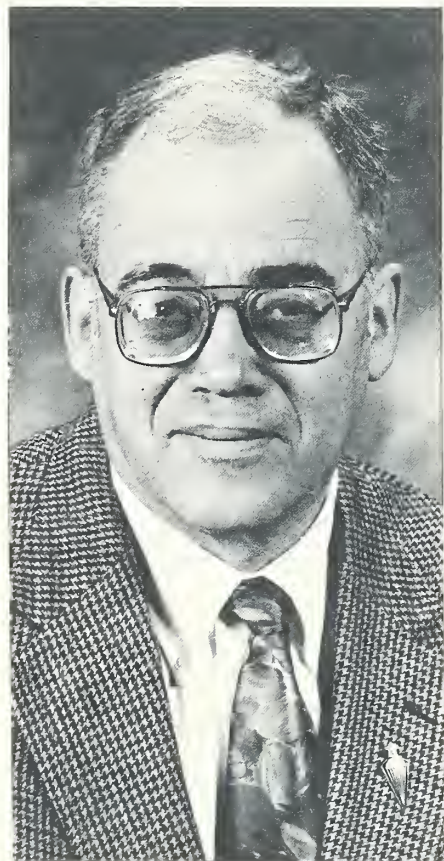
Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 8

August 1995

Richard M. Bacon Named Deputy Regional Forester



Richard M. Bacon

Regional Forester Hal Salwasser announced in July that Richard M. Bacon has been selected as Deputy Regional Forester for the Northern Region. Since October, 1992, Bacon has been R-1 director of Air, Fire & Aviation. He begins his new assignment August 6.

A native of Massachusetts, Bacon is a veteran of 30 years with the Forest Service. He holds a degree in Forest Management from Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana.

Bacon started his Forest Service career in 1961 as a firefighter on the Eldorado National Forest, Placerville, California. After working several years as a forestry technician in California and Idaho, he started his professional career in 1968 as a forester on the Boise National Forest.

Following several assignments on National Forests in Wyoming and Idaho, Bacon served as district ranger from 1978 to 1985 on the Salmon National Forest in Idaho.

He served in the Forest Service's national headquarters, Washington, D.C., 1985-1987, as a cooperative fire program specialist. Bacon was director of Aviation & Fire Management for the Eastern Region, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from 1987 to 1992.

Salwasser noted that Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas expressed his confidence in Bacon's appointment, saying, "I had the opportunity to see Dick Bacon in action last summer in the midst of the fire season. His professional handling of decisions in an extremely complex situation was impressive. I'm sure he will do well as a Deputy Regional Forester."

Bacon replaces Chris Risbrudt as deputy regional forester. Risbrudt was promoted to Director of Land Management Planning in the Forest Service's national headquarters in Washington, D.C. this past May.

Volunteer Service

1,600 Volunteers Contribute 96 Person Years in 1994

Work Valued at \$1,656,951

by Peggy St. Peter,
RO Personnel Management

Volunteer Service has never been more popular than it is today.

In these times of Forest Service downsizing, reinvention and budget constraints, volunteers are playing a major part in keeping the Northern Region running smoothly by completing valued resource projects that would ordinarily not be accomplished. The region's volunteer program offers individuals, sponsored groups and organizations from all walks of life a wide range of opportunities to contribute talents and service in assisting with the administration, management and protection of the nation's public lands and resources in the four-state region.

The Northern Region marked National Volunteer Week, April 23-29, by honoring three R-1 volunteers selected for the Chief's 1995 Volunteer National Program Award. R-1 volunteers formally recognized for outstanding service and as official representatives of all of the other Volunteer Service workers on Ranger Districts, National Forests and in the regional headquarters: Lad and Tony Coyne, Idaho

Volunteers Continued on page 2

Winter Sports Growing

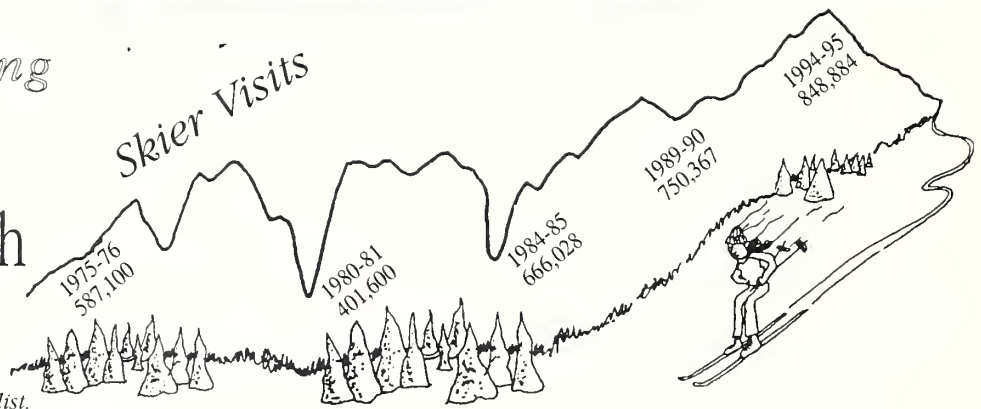
1994-95 Skier Visits Up To All-Time High For R-1

By Homer Bowles,
Recreation Management Specialist,
RO Wilderness, Recreation & Heritage Programs

There was an increase of more than 48,600 skier visits at the 13 Northern Region ski areas in Montana and northern Idaho in the 1994-1995 ski season. This is a 6% increase over the previous ski season and an all-time high for winter recreation areas in the region.

The record level of use was due in part to early snow in November, making it possible for many of the areas to open earlier than normal. Six of the ski areas reported increases in skier visits over the previous season: Bridger Bowl, Big Mountain, Discovery Basin, Snowbowl, Lost Trail and Maverick Mountain.

Seven ski areas were operating as early as Thanksgiving and eight remained open until April.



NORTHERN REGION SKI AREA VISITS, 1994-95

BIG MOUNTAIN (Flathead NF)	296,909
BRIDGER BOWL (Gallatin NF)	192,551
RED LODGE (Custer NF)	114,140
DISCOVERY BASIN (Deerlodge NF)	55,991
SHOWDOWN (Lewis & Clark NF)	51,682
SNOWBOWL (Lolo NF)	45,900
LOST TRAIL (Bitterroot NF)	33,622
LOOKOUT PASS (Idaho Panhandle NFs)	25,346
MARSHALL (Lolo NF)	15,640
MAVERICK MOUNTAIN (Beaverhead NF)	8,944
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HI (Lewis & Clark NF)	6,066
TURNER MOUNTAIN (Kootenai NF)	2,093
NORTH-SOUTH (Idaho Panhandle NFs)	(not available)
REGIONAL TOTAL	848,884

Art by Carol A. Evans, RO Public Affairs Office.

Volunteers

Continued from page 1

Panhandle NF campground hosts; Richard and Pat Thune, Lolo NF campground hosts; Gene Johnson, Custer NF.

Last year, 1,600 Northern Region volunteers, on the 13 National Forests and in the regional headquarters in Missoula, contributed 96 person years of work valued at \$1,656,951.

The tasks volunteers perform are as varied as the locations in which they work. These volunteers provide wilderness management, campsite restoration, backcountry monitoring, cabin maintenance, wilderness maintenance, campground hosting, visitor information at Visitor Information Centers and Wild & Scenic River patrols.

These volunteers bring specialized skills and extensive experience. This includes compiling archival data on pictograph sites, recording previously unrecorded sites and monitoring and rephotographing/rerecording pictography sites; establishing

population trends of resident and migratory birds; providing technical advice on the ecology of plant communities; bighorn sheep study and a beaver reintroduction project in a wilderness. R-1 is also involved in the International Volunteer/Visitor Program, hosting individuals and sponsored groups.

Last fall, Francois Marson, from Dijon, France, worked as a volunteer in the Northern Region headquarters to acquire experience in communicating in English. A 22-year-old college graduate, he worked in Lands and Minerals; Office of the General Counsel; Lands & Financial Planning; Range, Air, Watershed and Ecology; Timber Cooperative Forestry & Pest Management. Marson was visiting Joyce Pritchard's family in Lolo, Montana. Joyce works in the RO Public Affairs Office. He has

At right: Francois Marson, Forest Service volunteer from France.



returned to France for his military service as a gendarme.

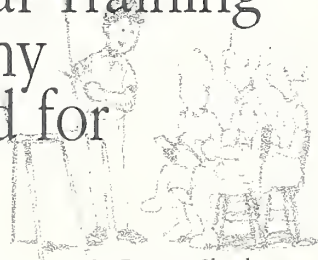
We are exceptionally proud of our volunteers who have become an integral part of the Forest Service. It is important that we continue to provide an atmosphere that encourages and promotes volunteerism. The work accomplished by volunteers enables the Northern Region to meet higher standards of service than would otherwise be possible.

Let's keep them coming back!

Expanding Training

Tomorrow's Scientists

Regional Training Academy Planned for April of 1996



By Donna Sheehy,
RO Engineering

Planning has started for a 1996 Regional Training Academy, April 8-12, on the University of Montana campus in Missoula. Mark your calendar. A list of course offerings will be available in the fall.

For the last four years, RO Engineering has hosted an annual Engineering Training Academy (ETA) on the University of Montana campus in Missoula during the spring break. More than 300 Forest Service employees attended the 1995 session. Some of the RO staff units—Office of the General Counsel; Wilderness, Recreation & Heritage Programs; Administration—presented specialized classes within the Engineering Academy.

Because of the success of the Engineering Training Academies, the regional Board of Directors has decided to expand the ETA concept into a Regional Training Academy (RTA) for 1996. A core team of representatives of each RO and Aerial Fire Depot staff has been organized to plan the 1996 RTA. Team members are:

Wildlife & Fisheries - Kathy Torquemada
Personnel Management - Peggy St. Peter
Lands, Minerals/ Recreation - Carol Maier
Ecosystem Assessment & Planning Staff - Olleke Rappe-Daniels
Forest & Rangeland Management - Randy Gay
Management Systems - Bruce Jeske
Engineering ETA - Don Patterson, Suzette Dailey, Jim Saurbier, Donna Sheehy, Chair.
Public Affairs Office - Cheryle Zwang
Administration - Steve Gradhandt
Aviation & Fire - Jim Grant
Law Enforcement - Kim West

Each RO staff has assessed its training needs to aid in tentatively determining which courses would fit into an Academy structure. Approximately 600 hours of training have been identified for inclusion in the Regional Training Academy.

Science Fair Students Win Day With Forest Service

By Linda Lanham,
Bridge Engineer,
Division of Engineering,
Regional Headquarters

Four Montana students received special Forest Service awards this spring at the 1995 40th annual Montana Science Fair at the University of Montana. A total of 490 middle school and high school students participated in the competition.

The Forest Service sponsored the awards in the categories of "Forest Service Related Engineering" and "Forest Service Related Natural Resource Development and/or Management."

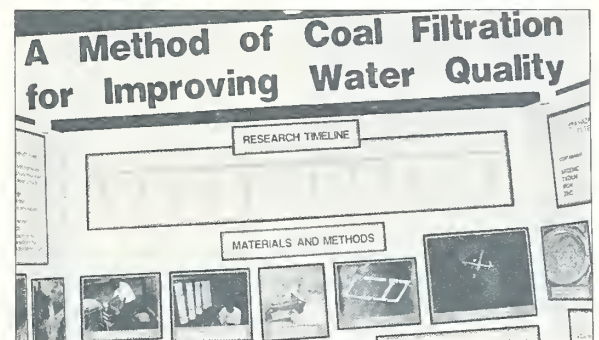
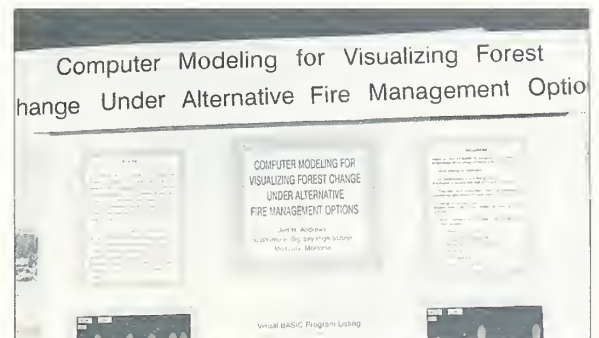
Each of the winners received a special certificate of achievement and a day in the field with a Forest Service specialist working in the the area of the winning student's interest.

Jim Saurbier, transportation preconstruction/construction engineer, RO Engineer, announced the Forest Service winners at the Science Fair award breakfast, April 11, in the University Center to:

Benjamin Holt, Helena High School, grade 12, for his project on "A Method of Coal Filtration for Improving Water Quality." Later in the summer, Holt spent a work day in the field with a Helena NF soil scientist and hydrologist.

Jed Andrews, Missoula Big Sky High School, grade 10, for his project on "Computer Modeling for Visualizing Forest Change Under Alternative Fire Management Options." Andrews spent a day on the Lolo NF with a fire management specialist.

Ty Felton, Missoula Rattlesnake Middle School, grade 7, for his project on "Friction's Effect on Water Flow." He spent a day on the Lolo NF with Brad Miller, structural engineer, RO Engineering, looking at different stream sections and their associated



Above: Computer Modeling & Coal Filtration Exhibits - Montana State Science Fair.

Photo by Linda Lanham

roughness.

Addie Wakeman, Dillon Middle School, grade 8, for her project on "Does Surface Snow Really Have An Affect on Avalanches?" Wakeman spent a day on the Beaverhead NF with Jim Schaeffer, avalanche coordinator.

Six Forest Service employees served as volunteer judges at the Science Fair: Linda Lanham, RO Engineering; Jim Calcaterra, RO Engineering; Kathy Torquemada, wildlife biologist, RO Wildlife & Fisheries; George Howe, forestry genetics specialist, RO Forest & Rangeland; Leslie Vaculik, minerals specialist, RO Lands & Minerals; Jane Taylor, pathologist, RO Forest & Rangeland.

Lands, Minerals & Geology



'95 Annual Awards At Technical Seminar, Lands & Minerals Meetings

Mark Sommer (right), Nez Perce NF, accepts the Locatable Program Achievement Award from Director John Drake.



Lands Achievement Award was presented to Lorraine Gallinger, Assistant U.S. Attorney General, Billings, Montana, by Director John Drake.

Gordon Schofield, (right) Bozeman, Montana, Gallatin NF, accepts a special achievement award from Dave O'Brien, Missoula, regional land use specialist, RO.



Ronald E. Hawk (right) Missoula, Lolo NF SO, accepts special achievement award from Regional Rights of Way Specialist Gary Johnson.

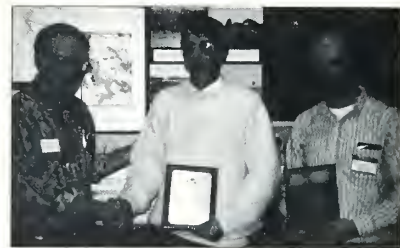
By Betty Dee Russ,
RO Lands & Minerals

The Director's Award for Minerals & Geology was presented at the annual Minerals & Geology Technical Seminar in March at Fairmont Hot Springs, near Butte, Montana.

The 1995 Director's Award was presented jointly to Dan Avery, Butte, Montana, Deerlodge NF, and Bob Wintergerst, Philipsburg (Montana) RD, Deerlodge NF, for their work in the abandoned mines program.

Avery and Wintergerst were recognized for leading the Deerlodge NF as a "pilot forest" in initiating an inactive and abandoned mine inventory program for the Northern Region, for their commitment in working with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in coordinating the Forest Service-Bureau of Mines program under the National Acid Rock Drainage Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They were also commended for their leadership and commitment in working with MSE, Inc. and the Mine Waste Technology Pilot Program in establishing a research treatment site for acid rock drainage at the Crystal Mine, Jefferson RD, Deerlodge NF, and the Forest Rose Mine, Deer Lodge RD, Deerlodge NF, and the Combination mine sites near Rogers Pass, Helena NF.

Debbie Johnson, Sheridan (Montana) Work Center, Madison RD, Beaverhead NF, received the Minerals & Geology Achievement Award for her efforts to ensure that minerals and geologic data are considered in the planning effort and in exploring the use of this type of information in a broader ecosystem management planning context.



Lands & Minerals Director John Drake (left) congratulates Bob Wintergerst and Dan Avery (right), winners of the 1995 Northern Region Director's Award for Minerals and Geology.

The Locatable Minerals Program Achievement Award was presented to Mark Sommer, Elk City, Idaho, Red River RD, Nez Perce NF, for his skill and perseverance in resolving several long-term mining problems without appeals or litigation.

Steve Johnson, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Idaho Panhandle NFs, received the Director's Award for Lands, at the Lands Program Officers' meeting in May at Gallatin Gateway, Montana. The award was in recognition of his consistent high-quality work and innovative leadership in the administration of the Forest's special-use program.

Special achievement awards were presented to:

- Bill Jones, Orofino, Idaho, Clearwater NF SO, for his work in the area of land adjustment, on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests.

- Gordon Schofield, Bozeman, Montana, Gallatin NF, for his outstanding work in special uses and all aspects of the lands program.

- Ronald E. Hawk, Missoula, Montana, Lolo NF, for his outstanding, long-term contribution in support of the Forest and Regional real estate management programs.

- Special awards were also presented to Lorraine Gallinger, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Billings, Montana, and to Mark Lodine, Office of the USDA General Counsel, Missoula, for their invaluable assistance in reaching the Settlement Agreement with Point of Rocks Ranch for the Donahue Trail on the Gallatin NF.

Photos by Leslie Vaculik, RO Lands & Minerals, and Harry McAllister, Flathead NF

Exposing Students, Teachers To Wilderness Concepts, History and Ethics

By Sally Blevins,
R-1 Wilderness Education
Coordinator, West Fork RD,
Darby, Montana,
Bitterroot National Forest.

"This is what wilderness means to me:

It is like peace has come to you.

The trees are like graceful ballerinas in the wind.

The sun is like love to the animals.

The flowers are like beauty to the animals.

I think wilderness is beauty to me."

*Written by Shoshanah Seed, 3rd grader,
Corvallis, Montana, during National
Geography Awareness Week.
"Keeping Wilderness in Sight." November 13-19,
1994.*

"**K**eeping Wilderness in Sight" means learning about this country's development and the history of the 1964 Wilderness Act. It means learning about wild animal habitats, natural ecosystems, watersheds, fire ecology, making management decisions to protect the enduring resource of wilderness, and learning about becoming land stewards to keep wildlands looking wild.

As a Forest Service Wilderness Ranger, I've taught "leave no trace" camping skills and wilderness philosophy for more than two decades. I was delighted to see the National Geographic teaching materials being distributed to educators across the country. As I headed for the classrooms last November equipped with backpack, hobblers, firepan, and poetry, I was only one of many teachers exposing students to the concepts of wilderness and land ethics.

Teaching techniques practiced by the Forest Service in Montana and Idaho are as diverse as the terrain across these States. Many National Forests use a "Wilderness Skills Trail" of stations with hands-on activities in which students learn about using primitive tools, backcountry sanitation, packing for the trail, using horses or llamas, camping in bear country, the uniqueness of wild lands, and how to leave a campsite looking like no one had been there.

The Flathead National Forest's "Call of the Wild!" campground programs invite kids and parents to participate in wildlife games and explorations. Children at Eagle Mount

summer camp, for children with cancer get acquainted with mules of the Forest Service's Ninemile Pack Train. The children learn about how the mules are packed and what the mules do in the backcountry.

The Northern Region pack train tours all summer, reaching thousands of people with programs about minimum impact camping and stock use. Our expanding educational programs in recent years now permit Montana and Idaho students to be exposed to wilderness or leave no trace programs once or twice during their school years. Educators know this "one-shot" message is not enough to change behaviors and attitudes and create an awareness of land stewardship principles.

Realizing that the Forest Service doesn't have the people or resources available to conduct land ethic programs in every classroom, efforts are being made to provide teachers with materials and experiences that help in teaching their classes about natural resources. Region One is implementing the national "Wilderness and Land Ethic Box" curriculum in the schools. The lessons (K through 8) utilize activities that help students better understand and appreciate our natural world. The 'box' is full of interesting props, including books with literature-based activities, posters, puppets, animal skins & skulls, and creative ways to teach about maps.

In cooperation with the Boone & Crockett Conservation Education Program, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the

Wilderness Education

Dear Sally,
Thank you for coming to our class. It was fun watching and doing the skits. I never thought of washing 200 feet from water. I like going camping in the woods, where it's peaceful, full of animal life, and you can run, climb trees, and just have fun. That's the cool how you can use the tin garbage you can use with a put a little stick. I like dirt and fire too. I fishing in the woods too. I will tell my mom and dad next time we go camping how to be a non trace camper.
Thanks again,
Sincerely,
Jennifer Henson

Artwork by
Cole Montgomery
in illustration of
thinking about
wilderness.

One of the many
"Dear Sally" letters
written by students
in other schools in
the Bitterroot Valley,
following conservation
and wilderness
education presentations.

Montana Environmental Education Association, the first Wilderness and Land Ethic Box Teachers' Workshop was conducted July 11-13, near Dupuyer, Montana. Montana teachers became better acquainted with the curriculum and broadened their understanding of wilderness history and management. After attending the workshop, teachers may check out the "Wilderness & Land Ethic Box" for use in their classrooms.

Planning efforts are underway for an employee Wilderness Box workshop this fall. It will be designed to give Forest Service employees opportunities to investigate how the curriculum can be integrated into other education programs and create a cadre of interested and qualified Wilderness Box trainers.

Do you know teachers who would like to utilize this new teaching tool? Call Gloria Weisgerber, in the Regional Office, Public Affairs Office (406)329-3094.

For more information about the R-1 Wilderness & Land Ethic Box program, contact Sally Blevins, R-1 Wilderness Education Coordinator, Bitterroot NF, (406) 821-3913

Lick Creek Workshop

Highlighting Ecosystem Management Concepts "At Work"

By Madelyn Kempf, Human Dimension Team Chair, Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project, Bitterroot National Forest

Researchers, land managers and educators gathered recently by the mirror-like surface of Lake Como, Darby RD, Bitterroot NF, for an innovative, ecosystem-based Lick Creek Workshop highlighting ecosystem management (EM) concepts "at work". The Lick Creek area is 12 miles west of Hamilton, Montana.

Sponsored by the Intermountain Research Station, Bitterroot National Forest, University of Montana, and Systems for Environmental Management, the one-day workshop was designed to demonstrate how EM is being incorporated into research and land management on the Bitterroot National Forest.

More than 80 researchers, land managers and educators from Montana, Idaho and Utah participated. They came from the Forest Service, Montana Dept. of State Lands, Bureau of Land Management, and University of Montana to view and discuss ecosystem management practices on a small landscape. Discussions centered on how to apply EM on their management areas.

Guest speakers included: Tom Wagner, Chuck Prausa, Rick Floch, Cathy Stewart from the Bitterroot NF; Project Leader Clint Carlson, Steve Arno, Mick Harrington from the Intermountain Research Station; Carl Fiedler, University of Montana; and Bob

Benson, Systems for Environmental Management. Trapper Creek Job Corp Center culinary arts students provided drinks, snacks and sack lunches.

The workshop focused on opportunities to manage vegetation in ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir in a way that mimics natural processes. Treatments applied to the landscape are retention shelterwood, selection systems, and thinning, followed by underburning

- *to recycle nutrients back into the soil
- *enhance forage for wildlife,
- *increase the diversity of vegetation and wildlife,
- *and manage fuels, to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire.

Other management opportunities improve the visual appearance of the area, rehabilitate impacted watersheds, and manage roads and trails to improve elk habitat and security.

Interpretive sites are being developed in the Lick Creek area to help increase public awareness of ecosystem management concepts that aid in providing sustained resource outputs while maintaining healthy, productive, and visually-appealing forest settings.

The Lick Creek drainage offers an excellent opportunity to view historic conditions, and monitor management changes over a time span. The area has known timber harvesting and aggressive fire suppression for almost 100 years. Fire suppression efforts have permitted Douglas-fir to move onto sites that were historically park-like ponderosa pine sites.

Once there were mainly grasses in this drainage with a few shrubs at the ground level. Now you'll see a dense growth of Douglas-fir. Spruce budworm and dwarf mistletoe are common in the understory. Forest health has declined and there is in-



View toward Lick Creek on Rock Creek Divide in 1909. From a photo by W. J. Lubken



Participants at the Lick Creek Ecosystem-based workshop enthusiastically hiked from unit-to-unit viewing EM concepts on the ground. Photos by Madelyn Kempf

creasing risk of destructive fires that can burn into the overstory. Wildlife habitat has decreased as the result of declines in willows and small trees in the dense understory.

There is general agreement among researchers, land managers and the public that a new land management approach is in order, to replace the approach of focusing on a single resource. Out of this belief, a partnership was formed in 1991 between the Intermountain Research Station, Bitterroot National Forest and the public to develop a desired future condition in the Lick Creek area. Formal agreements were reached to create research/demonstration ecosystem-based treatments that will facilitate future management in Lick Creek and elsewhere throughout the Northern Rocky Mountains.

On the heels of the success at Lick Creek, research and National Forest land managers formed another cooperative venture: the Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project (BEMRP). This five-year project is working to restore forest health and enhance resource values on ecosystems on the east face of the Bitterroot Range that has — over the past 150 years — been altered and influenced by European Americans.



University of Montana's Professor Carl Fiedler discusses how uneven-age silvicultural treatments and underburning can be used in ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir forests to reduce fuels and prepare seedbeds for the regeneration of ponderosa pine.

Seventy-Three Children Enjoy Fishing Derby Near Grangeville, Idaho

National Fishing Week

By Laura Smith,
Visual Information Specialist,
Nez Perce National Forest,
Grangeville, Idaho

Seventy-three children, ages 5 through 12, enjoyed a fun-filled day of fishing and environmental education June 10 at Wilkins' Pond, 6 miles southwest of Grangeville, in conjunction with National Fishing Week. The fishing derby was organized by the Clearwater RD, Nez Perce NF, with the Cottonwood, Idaho office of the Bureau of Land Management and the Ted Wilkins family of Grangeville. Again this year, the Sunrise Lion's Club provided free hot dogs and soda pop.

The weather was ideal for enjoyable fishing: sunny and warm with gusty winds. Fish were biting. Children brought in fifty-eight fish to be measured in the competition.

Dozens of prizes were given away to derby participants. Local merchants supporting this year's event included Ace Hardware, Askers Harvest, Book Shoppe, Blue Fox Theatre, Burger Time, Cash & Carry, Copper Hood, Crossroads, Gortsema Motors, Grangeville Lock & Key, Ray Holes, Holiday Sports, Irwin Drug, K & R Video, Kempco Electronics, Miller Hardware, Rae Brothers, Union Warehouse, Walkers, and Grangeville Care Center.



Successful Angler at Wilkins' Pond:
Dawn Crumb, New Meadows, Idaho.

Photo by Phoebe Siddall, Clearwater Ranger District, Nez Perce NF

Top award winners included:

LARGEST FISH
SMALLEST FISH
CASTING CONTEST

LARGEST FISH
SMALLEST FISH
CASTING CONTEST

Ages 5-8

Kurt Urbahn, 7, Grangeville: rainbow trout, two pounds
Bob Courtney, 3, Grangeville: rainbow trout, 12 ounces
J.D. Schmidt, 7, Grangeville

Ages 9-12

Dawn Crumb, 10, New Meadows: rainbow trout, one pound, 8.5 ounces
Meg FitzMaurice, 12, Grangeville: rainbow trout, 13 ounces
Jeanna Stone, 10, and Johnathon Brady, 11, both of Grangeville: tied for first in the event

Beaverhead NF- Deerlodge NF RENDEZVOUS



Congratulations: Mayme Gill (left), administrative officer for the Deerlodge and Beaverhead NFs, congratulates Marjorie Stefanatz, a Beaverhead SO Senior Citizen Service Employment (SCSEP) employee, in honor of Senior Citizens Week. The staff joined Marjorie in enjoying a cake at a break to help celebrate the contribution senior citizens make to the Forest Service.



Regional Forester Dave Jolly spoke to the employees.

Photos by
Jack de Golia,
Public Affairs
Officer,
Beaverhead/
Deerlodge NFs.



Transitions & Coping with Change: For the last year, the Deerlodge and Beaverhead NFs have shared staff officers and operated with a joint leadership team. Thanks to the two forests' Human Resources Action Team, a day was set aside in March to get all employees of the two Forests together at the Copper King Inn in Butte, Montana. Sandy Metheny, who facilitated the day, is pictured here talking with the employees about coping with change.



Change at the helm: Deerlodge NF Supervisor Van Elsbernd (standing) introduces Alan Christensen (seated; wearing a necktie) to Deerlodge employees at the SO in Butte. Elsbernd has accepted an Assignment in Fort Collins, Colorado. Alan is serving as Acting Forest Supervisor.

13th Forestry Contest

Jr./Sr. High Students Learn Forestry Skills in Idaho Competition

By Glenn Roloff,
Cooperative Forest Management Specialist,
Forest & Rangeland Management,
Northern Region Headquarters

More than 220 junior/senior high school students participated in the 13th annual Idaho State Forestry Contest in May at the Delay Farms, near Careywood, Idaho, in Bonner County, between Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint.

Started in 1983, this annual forestry event is designed to provide an opportunity for students [junior level, grades 7-8; senior level, grades 9-12] to compete in various forestry activities. Participants are judged on their skills in a variety of forestry events, as teams and on an individual basis.

Since its inception, the competition has been at Ray and Fairy Delay's farm. The 1,400-acre farm has 1,200 acres of forest land. Fairy Delay was the honorary chairperson for the 1995 forestry education contest. The Delays intensively manage their forest land for sustainable wood products, wildlife, soil, water and other resource values.

The forestry contest is jointly sponsored by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the

Bonner Soil Conservation District, with cooperation from numerous companies, businesses, organizations and agencies.

Natural resource professionals volunteer as activity judges at the one-day competition: foresters and others professionals from IDL Natural Resources Conservation Service [formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service], Idaho Cooperative Extension System, Bureau of Land Management, Plum Creek Timber, Idaho Forest Industries, Inland Empire Paper, Crown Pacific-Inland, Louisiana-Pacific, Rayonier [formerly Pacific Crown], Riley Creek Lumber, Ceda-Pine Veneer, Potlatch Particle Plant, McFarland-Cascade, Idaho Veneer, Circle D Farms, Plant-4-U, Selkirk Chapter of Society of American Foresters, and a Forest Service retiree.

Jean Seymour, resource manager, IDL, has served as the program coordinator for the Idaho State Forestry Contest for several years.

This year, 188 students participated in the events and 32 sixth-graders attended as observers. Next year, these sixth-graders will be eligible to participate in the competition. The

220 students at the forestry competition came from nine communities, including Sandpoint, Bonners Ferry, Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene, St. Maries, Cúldesac, Priest River, Deary and Potlatch.



Just prior to the awards ceremony, Bob Bosworth, Forest Service silviculturist, Bonners Ferry Rd, Idaho Panhandle NFs, and his son, Carson, demonstrated their logging skills in cutting through a 22-inch log with a crosscut saw in 10.9 seconds. Carson also demonstrated his springboard chopping skills for the students. He is one of the top competitors in the world and participates in many international competitions.



Students Scaling Logs, one of nine forestry activities in the Idaho State Forestry Contest.

Students were judged on their abilities and skills in cruising timber; map reading; tree and plant identification; tree health; compass & pacing; silviculture; log scaling; tool identification and soil and water quality.

Bill Love, Forestry Assistance Bureau Chief, IDL, was the master-of-ceremonies and presented the awards. Christopher Hubbel, Bonners Ferry Boy Scout Troop No. 114, received a \$100 savings bond for having the highest individual score. Other winners received a variety of other prizes. The junior and senior team winners received a traveling, chrome-plated crosscut saw trophy and each received a permanent plaque.

All participants in the forestry contest are considered winners. Some of the students may pursue forestry or other natural resource academic degrees in college as a result of their experience at the forestry contests. The students gain a heightened awareness and better understanding of forestry and the need for sound, scientific management.



Fairy Delay, honorary chairperson, and Bill Love, Idaho Department of Lands, standing with the junior and senior level team winners with their traveling trophies, chrome-plated crosscut saws.

Photos by Glenn Roloff.

Big Trees in Montana

Ten of Montana's 24 Champion Trees in National Forests

By Steve Chadde, RO,
Natural Areas Ecologist

Of the 24 trees listed in the 1995 Big Tree Register of Montana's Champion Trees, ten are in the National Forests.

To nominate a tree to the Montana Tree Register, information is collected about the tree's height, circumference and crown spread. To find a tree's total points, add (a) trunk circumference in inches; (b) height in feet; (c) 1/4 of its average crown spread in feet.

The Montana Big Tree Register is jointly sponsored by the Northern Region and Intermountain Research Station and the Montana Tree Farm Committee Program. Nationally, records on the largest of more than 750 native tree species are maintained by American Forests, Washington D.C.

Information about the tree register and nomination forms are available from the R-1/Intermountain Natural Areas Program, P. O. Box 8089, Missoula, Montana 59807.

The 10 Champion trees in Montana National Forests are:

Rocky Mountain Maple/Acer glabrum....Cabinet RD, Kootenai NF (78 points)
Alpine Larch/Larix Iyallii....Libby RD, Kootenai NF (313 points)
Whitebark Pine/Pinus albicaulis....Glacier View RD, Flathead NF (275 points)
Lodgepole Pine/Pinus contorta....Tally Lake RD, Flathead NF (213 points)
Western Whitepine/Pinus monticola....Swan Lake RD, Flathead NF (355 points)
Western Whitepine/Pinus monticola....Hungry Horse RD, Flathead NF (360 points)
(co-champions are listed when total scores are within 10 to 15 points)
Ponderosa Pine/Pinus ponderosa....Ninemile RD, Lolo NF (451 points)
Douglas-Fir/Pseudotsuga menziesii....Hungry Horse RD, Flathead NF (380 points)
Douglas-Fir/Pseudotsuga menziesii....Hungry Horse RD, Flathead NF (369 points)
Mountain Hemlock/Tsuga mertensiana....Superior RD, Lolo NF (167 points)

Remembering Winter in the Mountains

1995 Winterfest At Seeley Lake

by Andrea (Andi) Garcia,
Forester, Seeley Lake RD,
Lolo National Forest

By mid-winter, some people started to long for and look toward the warmer days of spring and summer. But the small, mountain community of Seeley Lake, in western Montana on the edge of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, celebrates winter in mid January with a community Winterfest.

Winterfest activities included the traditional parade, dances, snowmobile rides, cross-country skiing and other winter activities. Several local businesses, fraternal and service groups and many families each year participate in the winterfest snow sculpture competition.

Seeley Lake Ranger District employees have enjoyed watching groups, families and businesses design and construct snow sculptures featuring a variety of subjects. This year, Forest Service employees decided it looked like too much fun to miss. They joined in the snow sculpture competition.



Prize-Winning Snow Sculpture at Seeley Lake Ranger Station.
Photo by Lenise Lago, Seeley Lake RD, Lolo NF

Employees and their families donated skills and time for several evenings the week before the competition. Lynn Johnson and Bruce Johnson designed the snow artistry. It featured a large Forest Service shield with a snowmobile facing uphill on one side and a gnome sliding downhill on an innertube on the other side of the large shield.

Once the design sketch was completed, District employees joined in sculpting the snow in front of the Ranger Station, on the lawn. The sculpture was more than eight feet high.

The lettering and tree on the shield were carved to create a three-dimension appearance. Employees donated recycled Christ-

mas trees to give the sculpture a woodland look. Smaller sculptures of rabbits and squirrels were interspersed throughout the scene.

Seeley Lake RD's sculpture was awarded a \$200 second prize by the snow sculpture judges. The funds have been donated to the District Welfare Committee. The District's employees and families found the snow sculpture an enjoyable involvement in a community activity. Credit is due to Bruce, Lynn, Carrie and Scott Johnson, Anne Zimmermann, Dick Taylor, Rita Herman, Andi Garcia, Sharon Klinkhammer, Maggie Doherty, and Jim, Lisa and Hayley Blackburn for their time, efforts and artistic efforts.

Fire Researcher Tells About Fighting First Fire In 1934

*By Mike Hardy,
Forest Service Retiree*

The fire season of 1994 brought back memories of my first forest fire encountered over sixty years ago. In 1934, many of my future colleagues battled fires up to a quarter of a million acres in size. I was lucky to do battle on only one, and it was less than a quarter of one acre.

My first view of Missoula, Montana was a disappointing one. Coming down the Bitterroot Valley, I expected to meander among, around and between huge, old, mature trees. What I saw was the open valley.

A newly-graduated high school (Fullerton, California) boy, I arrived about July 10,

1934, planning to find a job on a National Forest post haste. Not so! I wound up an enrollee in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). But the CCC was not too bad: it paid \$21 per day, once a month, with clothing (surplus World War I Army outfits and work clothes), food of sorts, and shelter.

After a couple of weeks at Fort Missoula, I was assigned to a new Camp, No. 1961. It was so new that a couple dozen of us were shipped via an oooooold railway car to Forsyth, Montana, where we loaded several trucks and headed down a dusty road. In the afternoon we wound up at Twenty Mile Ranger Station, on Otter Creek, 20 miles south of Ashland, Montana, just in time to set up some Army pyramidal tents. But we didn't have enough time to secure and ditch the tents. Then came a midnight thunderstorm downpour that floated us right out of our tents and down the slope. It was the most summertime rain the area had seen in several years.

Early the next morning, the camp superintendent, Howard (Red) Halpin, roused us with the cheery news that a fire had been reported in Poker Jim Flats. Into the truck

went most of us on our new adventure of saving the forests. We were greeted at the fire by about a dozen men who already had the fire well under control. It was a single, old yellow pine surrounded by a bit of blackened soil. These men were local ranchers (most of them "per dieum guards") who sorely needed the cash to buy food and "cigreeets." They often turned out voluntarily to squelch such fires.

One reason the fire did not burn much was due to precious little fuel. Drought conditions had not allowed much to grow. Huge, old yellow pines

were dying from lack of moisture. The ranchers were shipping their cattle off — those who could afford the shipping costs — to mid-America cattle feedlots. (Nothing new there. My Dad, in Southern California, had just lost his drug store to the wholesaler and my meager savings were locked up in the bank holidays).

Our foreman sent all but two of us back to reinstate our camp. Another fellow (from Missoula; his last name was Mertz) and I were left to mop up the fire, whatever that meant. We were told to use our shovels and pulaskis — a shovel and a what? — to stir things around sort of like preparing a garden.

But, now the good part. The fire was actually on the ranger District just south of Twenty Mile. So, about noon, up came District Forest Ranger Chet Jackson, the first real, live Ranger I had ever met. He brought lunches, encouragement, a bit of instruction and TWO BEERS. Hey, I told myself, this is a pretty good outfit after all. Thirty-nine years later I retired from that pretty good outfit.

It wasn't until I returned to Missoula that fall to enter the university forestry school that



*Charles E. (Mike) Hardy
(1938)*

I learned the real fire season was a whole lot different story. In the Selway country of Idaho, the Pete King-McLendon Butte fire alone covered 253,000 of the 327,000 acres burned in the four-state Northern Region in the 1934 fire season, expending around 200,000 CCC enrollee days as well as tens of thousands of other firefighter days in the Northern Region. .

But more of that some other time.

Mike Hardy graduated from the University of Montana in 1939 with a BS degree in forestry. He married Mabelle Gould in 1941; they now live in the Rattlesnake Valley, north of Missoula. He served in the Navy in World War II, 1942-45. He served on three National Forests and then worked 22 years in Forest Service research in Missoula. After his retirement, he consulted part time in fire research for 13 years.

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Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

DALLAS, DAN, supervisory rangeland management specialist, Madison RD, cash award
JOHNSON, SHARON, mail & file clerk, SO, promotion, procurement clerk
HAGUE, TERESA, resource clerk, Idaho Panhandle NF, promotion, resource assistant/specialist, SO

OURADA, CHRIS, supervisory forestry technician, Madison RD, spot award
SUENRAM, PERI, program analyst, SO, promotion, appeals specialist, SO

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

MICKELSON, JAMES, supervisory civil engineer, Gallatin NF, to SO

NEW EMPLOYEES

KING, MELVIN, business management clerk, Dillon RD

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BROWN, GARY, forestry technician, West Fork RD, cash award
DICKMAN, LYNNE, geologist, SO, cash award
FITZPATRICK, EILEEN, clerk typist, SO, promotion, information receptionist
GOSLIN, BILL, forestry technician, West Fork RD, temporary promotion
JACKSON, SHARI, voucher examiner, SO, promotion, personnel clerk
JARUSSI, KATHY, personnel clerk, SO, cash award
KIEFFER, SALLY, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, temporary promotion
MARSH, SHIRLEY, personnel assistant, SO, cash award
OLSON, SHARRON, support services specialist, Sula RD, cash award
SMITH, MARJORIE, social services assistant, Anaconda JCC, promotion
STEFFENSON, DONNA, personnel officer, SO, spot award
WETZSTEON, SUSAN, computer assistant, Sula RD, cash award
WINDHORST, BRUCE, forestry technician, West Fork RD, cash award
WOFFORD, PRENTIS, teacher, Trapper Creek JCC, promotion, teacher supervisor
WYANT, KRISTINA, teacher, Anaconda JCC, promotion

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

DUNN, MARTIN, alcohol and drug abuse specialist, Anaconda JCC, reassignment, guidance counselor
RUSSELL, JANET, secretary, R-5 Lassen NF, transferred to Stevensville RD, computer assistant

STEFFENSON, DONNA, personnel management specialist, IPHNF's, personnel officer, SO

NEW EMPLOYEES

ALEXANDER, JOE, rangeland management specialist, Sula RD
BERNARDINO, ALICE, cook, Anaconda JCC
CROSS, MARCIA, archeologist trainee, SO
DORRANCE, RON, senior community service employment program, Anaconda JCC
EUSTACE, RENE, forestry technician, Darby RD
HUGHES, JOHN, forestry technician, Darby RD
MIRAMONTEZ, ROBERT, forestry technician, Darby RD
STROUSE, MICHELLE, forestry technician, Darby RD
SHELMERDINE, PHIL, forestry technician, Darby RD

RESIGNATIONS

SELENSKY, RAYMOND, senior community service employment program, Anaconda JCC

RETIREMENTS

RUSSELL, GLORIA, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC
WILLIAMS, NEIL, electrical worker trade leader, Trapper Creek JCC

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BELL, PAMELA, purchasing agent, SO, promotion
BENSON, KATHLEEN, contract specialist, SO, promotion
BRAUN, BERNADETTE, range conservationist, temporary promotion, district ranger, Sheyenne RD
CONNER, JOHN, office automation clerk, SO, promotion, business management assistant
EDEN, IRENE, senior community service employment program, SO, cash award
GONNOUD, THOMAS, forestry technician, Helena NF, promotion, supervisory forestry technician, Beartooth RD
GONZALES, SHERYL, supervisory computer specialist, SO, cash award
HANSEN, KURT, range conservationist, Sheyenne RD, temporary promotion
KINDLE, BRYAN, rangeland management specialist, McKenzie RD, cash award
SCHWAB, DONNA, senior community service employment program, SO, cash award
SMITH, BARBARA, resource clerk, SO, cash award
VISCONTY, GREG, geologist, SO, cash award
WALSH, RUSSEL, surveying technician, East Zone Engineering, cash award
YANCY, SHANNON, student trainee wildlife biology, McKenzie RD, promotion

NEW EMPLOYEES

McCULLOUGH, NANCY, mail and file clerk, SO

REASSIGNMENTS

MARTINEZ, GERALD, forestry technician, Gifford Pinchot NF, reassignment, forestry technician, Sioux RD
WALTERS-CLARK, LAURIE, supervisory forester, Ashland RD, reassignment, interdisciplinary, Camp Crook RD

DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

CULLEN, JACK, recreation technician, Butte RD, special service award
GUMP, ROBERT, forester, Jefferson RD, promotion
HENNINGSEN, RICK, presale forester, Butte RD, special service award
RADOMAN, ORA, travel clerk, SO, spot award
SANBORN, BRIAN, fisheries biologist, Butte RD, promotion
SCHUELKE, BRUCE, forester, Butte RD, special service award
SMELICH, PHYL, accounting assistant, SO, spot award

NEW EMPLOYEES

BARKER, TRAVIS, lead forestry technician, Jefferson RD
CONARD, BEN, wildlife biologist, Philipsburg RD
SMITH, KEVIN, lead forestry technician, Jefferson RD
TUSS, CHARLES, lead forestry technician, Jefferson RD
WOODCOCK, KIM, lead forestry technician, Jefferson RD

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ALLISON, RITA, forestry technician, Glacier View RD, promotion
ANDERSON, JERRY, supervisory forestry technician, promotion, assistant fire management officer, Hungry Horse RD
BABCOCK, JOHN, civil engineering technician, SO, temporary promotion
CUNDY, JUDIE, purchasing agent, SO, spot award
STANLEY, GAIL, computer assistant, Glacier View RD, promotion, SO

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

APPLEKAMP, EARL, civil engineer, RO, reassignment, technical services staff officer, SO
BLACK, DONALD, north zone fire management officer, Boise NF, reassignment, fire, aviation, and ecology staff officer, SO
CALLOWAY, CATHY, planning team leader, Swan Lake RD, temporary reassignment, ecosystems operations leader, Tally Lake RD

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BEARD, RITA, rangeland management specialist, SO, promotion, natural resource specialist, WO
GIBSON, DEBBIE, personnel assistant, SO, cash award
INMAN, RICH, supervisory biological scientist, SO, cash award
KEMPF, JONATHAN, civil engineer, SO, cash award
MICHEL, DON, forestry technician, Bozeman RD, cash award

NEW EMPLOYEES

HORNBERGER, GARY, forestry technician, Hebgen Lake RD
SAUER, BRAD, forestry technician, Hebgen Lake RD
SETH, ED, forestry technician, Hebgen Lake RD
SUTTON, BOB, forestry technician, Hebgen Lake RD
TREVINO, CARL, forestry technician, Hebgen Lake RD
WETZEL, CHARLES, forestry technician, Hebgen Lake RD
WILSON, TODD, lead forestry technician, Livingston RD

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

GEORGIO, KARYL, budget and accounting officer, SO, spot award
HART, BARB, office service assistant, SO, spot award
HEFFNER, DENNIS, forester, SO, spot award
MCLAUGHLIN, DORI, accounting technician, SO, spot award
NELSON, DAN, cartography technician, SO, spot award
ONDOV, RACHEL, rangeland management specialist, Townsend RD, spot award
PITTMAN, MAGGIE, public affair specialist, SO, spot award
RYAN, FERN, financial assistant, SO, promotion & spot award
SCOTT, DAVID, forestry technician, Lincoln RD, spot award
TEEGARDEN, AMY, interpretative specialist, SO, spot award
TURNER, DAVE, forestry technician, Helena RD, spot award
WILSON, LYDIA, information assistant, SO, spot award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

GRUPENHOFF, DOUG, wildlife biologist, Lincoln RD, reassignment

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BORNITZ, LYNN, supervisory forestry technician, St. Maries RD, temporary promotion
LAWS, RORY, lead forestry technician, temporary promotion, supervisory forestry technician, Avery RD

NEW EMPLOYEES

BLOUNT, WILLIAM, lead forestry technician, St. Maries RD
CAMM, TODD, lead forestry technician, St. Maries RD
GIBBONS, SAMUEL, lead forestry technician, St. Maries RD
HALE, MARK, lead forestry technician, St. Maries RD
MCLEOD, WILLIAM, lead forestry technician, Wallace RD

Personnel Actions Continued

PEARSON, SHAWN, lead forestry technician, Fernan RD
TINGLEY, GLEN, lead forestry technician, St. Maries RD

REASSIGNMENT/TRANSFERS

HURD, GENIA, accounting technician, reassignment, voucher examiner, SO
NACCARATO, ROBERTA, civilian pay clerk, Priest Lake RD, reassignment, personnel clerk, SO

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST**AWARDS & PROMOTIONS**

CASPER, LINDA, forestry technician, Judith RD, spot award
DENNIS, DIANE, financial assistant, SO, spot award
FORTUNE, WILLIAM, district ranger, Musselshell RD, spot award
GOTTEL, DONALD, wildlife biologist, SO, spot award
KNUPP, TERRY, district ranger, Kings Hill RD, spot award
MORTON, ROBERT, law enforcement, SO, spot award
NYBO, MARGIE, secretary, SO, time off award
RASH, ELDON, supervisory range conservationist, SO, spot award
STRATHY, ROBIN, geologist, SO, spot award
YATES, RON, landscape architect, SO, spot award

NEW EMPLOYEES

DOBB, LARRY, range technician, Musselshell RD
GLICKO, BOB, forestry technician, Kings Hill RD
KEIM, KELLY, archaeology technician, Judith RD
TEIG, RON, lead forestry technician, Musselshell RD

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

MAYO, MARGARET, accounting technician, Idaho Panhandle NF, reassignment, SO
SHWIND, PATTI, forestry technician, Payette NF, reassignment, Rocky Mountain RD

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST**AWARDS & PROMOTIONS**

ARNOLD, DEWEY, civil engineering technician, SO, West Zone Engineering, temporary promotion, Kootenai NF
BENEFIEL, MARY, accounting technician, promotion, RO

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

ALEXANDER, MICHELLE, hydrologist, Rocky Mountain Forest & Range

Experiment Station, reassignment, fishery biologist, SO
BOWEN, MARCUS, law enforcement & investigations, West MT Zone, reassignment, criminal investigator, Eastern RO, Milwaukee,
WI BRITTON, KENNETH, Forester, Sawtooth NF, reassignment, supervisory forester, Ninemile RD
STOEFLER, LISA, supervisory forester, Ninemile RD, reassignment, Sawtooth NF

In Memoriam

ORVAL W. (RED) GASTINEAU, 81, Priest River, Idaho, died April 21st in Sandpoint, Idaho. He had worked more than 30 years with the Forest Service in blister rust camps, fighting fires and with aerial spray crews in the Priest Lake area. At that time the area was part of the Kaniksu National Forest.

Rittenhouse Boise NF Supervisor

Intermountain Regional Forester Dale Bosworth announced in May the appointment of Dave Rittenhouse supervisor of the 2.6-million-acre Boise National Forest.

Rittenhouse had been forest supervisor for the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass NF since 1991. A University of Montana School of Forestry graduate (1968), Rittenhouse worked on the Lolo and Thompson Falls RD, Lolo NF; Lincoln RD, Helena NF; Philipsburg RD, Deerlodge NF; District Ranger for the Wisdom RD, Beaverhead NF.

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